

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-07

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S/S - MR. SEBASTIAN
-----032358Z 117614 /14

O R 032333Z MAY 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

S E C R E T STATE 100240

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR PINT PK US SA TC

SUBJECT: PAKISTAN'S POLITICAL DIFFICULTIES AND CHARGES OF
U.S. INTERFERENCE

1. IN VIEW OF SAG AND UAE INTEREST IN DEVELOPMENTS IN
PAKISTAN, AS SHOWN BY THEIR WILLINGNESS TO PLAY A MEDIATORY
ROLE BETWEEN BHUTTO AND HIS OPPONENTS, WE BELIEVE IT WOULD
BE USEFUL TO PASS ON TO APPROPRIATE SAG AND UAE AUTHORITIES
OUR CONCERNS AND REACTIONS TO EVENTS THERE.

2. YOU SHOULD INDICATE THAT WE HAVE BEEN DISTRESSED BY
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POST-ELECTION DEVELOPMENTS BECAUSE PROLONGED CIVIL DIS-
TURBANCES COULD EVENTUALLY UNDERMINE PAKISTAN'S COHESION
AND VIABILITY, WITH OBVIOUS NEGATIVE CONNOTATIONS FOR
REGIONAL STABILITY. BHUTTO'S APRIL 28 PUBLIC CHARGES OF
COVERT U.S. SUPPORT FOR HIS OPPONENTS WERE PARTICULARLY
DISMAYING. THE CHARGES ARE BASELESS. WE HAVE PROTESTED
THEM PUBLICLY AND TO THE GOP, PRIVATELY, EMPHASIZING THAT

WE HAVE NOT AND WILL NOT INTERVENE IN PAKISTAN'S DOMESTIC POLITICAL PROCESSES. WE HAVE REMINDED THE GOP THAT ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE HAS CONTINUED AND THAT MILITARY EQUIPMENTS SALES AND SHIPMENTS HAVE NOT BEEN INTERRUPTED.

3. WE ARE UNCLEAR ABOUT BHUTTO'S MOTIVES IN TURNING ON THE U.S. NOW. HIS ALLEGATIONS MAY HAVE BEEN MOTIVATED BY DOMESTIC POLITICAL NEEDS AND MOTIVES. A CONTINUATION OF THESE ATTACKS, WHATEVER THEIR MOTIVATION, COULD CREATE ATMOSPHERE IN U.S. PUBLIC AND CONGRESSIONAL OPINION WHICH WOULD HAVE A NEGATIVE IMPACT ON OUR BILATERAL RELATIONSHIP. WE NOTED BHUTTO'S PUBLIC RESPONSE TO THE SECRETARY'S LETTER OF APRIL 29 AND LOOK FORWARD TO HIS PROMISED, AND PRESUMABLY PRIVATE, REPLY.

4. YOU SHOULD ASSURE THE SAG AND UAE AUTHORITIES THAT OUR OBJECTIVE IN PAKISTAN REMAINS CONSISTENT WITH WHAT WE PERCEIVE TO BE THEIRS--THE MAINTENANCE OF A STABLE, UNITED, ECONOMICALLY AND POLITICALLY HEALTHY PAKISTAN. (SAG AND UAE PRESUMABLY PURSUE ISLAMIC OBJECTIVES WITH WHICH WE ARE IN NO WAY DIRECTLY CONCERNED BUT WHICH ARE NOT IN CONFLICT WITH OUR STATED GOALS.)

5. SINCE IT IS OUR PERCEPTION THAT OUR OBJECTIVES AND THOSE OF THE UAE AND SAG IN PAKISTAN ARE PARALLEL, AND SINCE REPRESENTATIVES OF THOSE GOVERNMENTS HAVE PLAYED A HIGHLY COMMENDABLE MEDIATORY ROLE THERE, WE WOULD WELCOME RECEIVING THE SAG AND UAE ASSESSMENTS OF THE CURRENT SITUATION AND PROSPECTS IN PAKISTAN AND THEIR PERCEPTION OR
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UNDERSTANDING OF THE REASONS FOR BHUTTO'S PRESENT ANTI-AMERICAN STANCE. NEEDLESS TO SAY, WE HOPE THAT IN THEIR CONTACTS WITH GOP THEY WILL, IN WHATEVER WAY THEY DEEM APPROPRIATE, GET ACROSS RISKS OF BHUTTO'S PRESENT ANTI-AMERICAN COURSE FOR INTERESTS WE ALL SHARE IN HAVING STABLE, FRIENDLY U.S.-PAKISTANI RELATIONS WHICH ARE SO IMPORTANT TO REGION AS A WHOLE.
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